

# Somerville Budget Overview



**Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone**  
**June, 2013**

# Playing the Long Game



# Investing Today with an Eye on Tomorrow

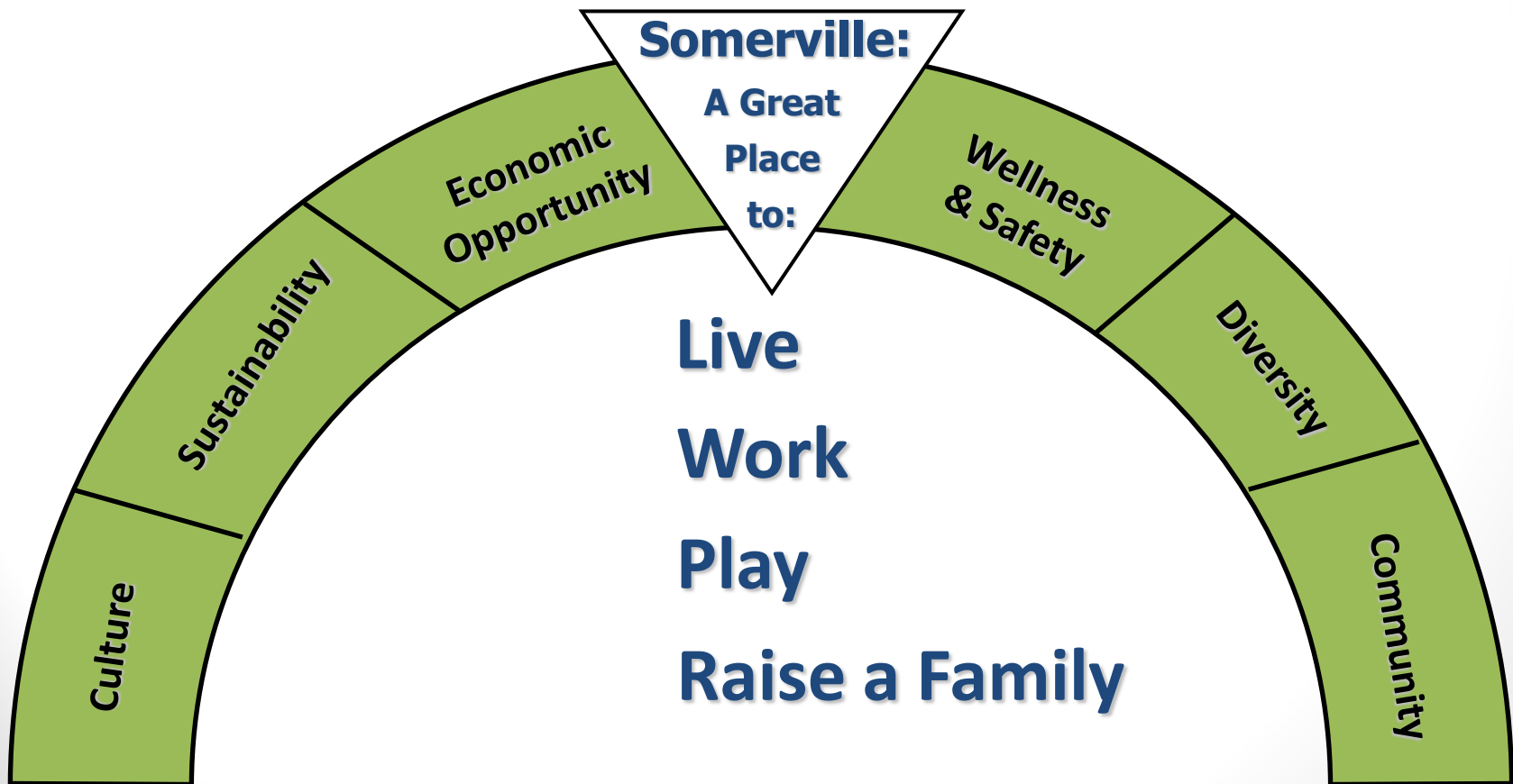
Investing in our Schools and Neighborhoods

Applying Preventive Maintenance: Targeting Upkeep to Save Later

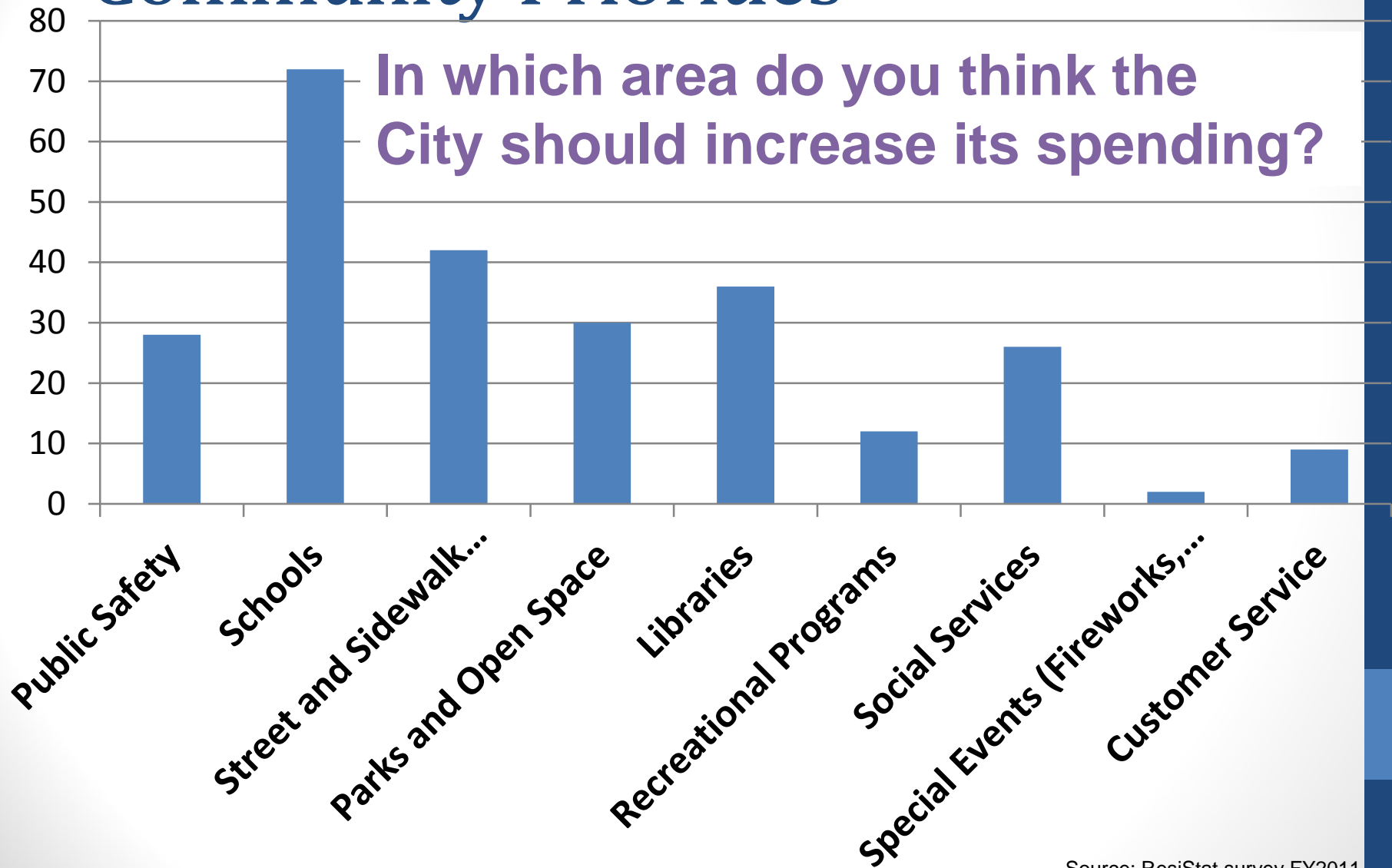
Planning for strategic long-term development

Serving Every Resident: Reaching Out in Other Languages

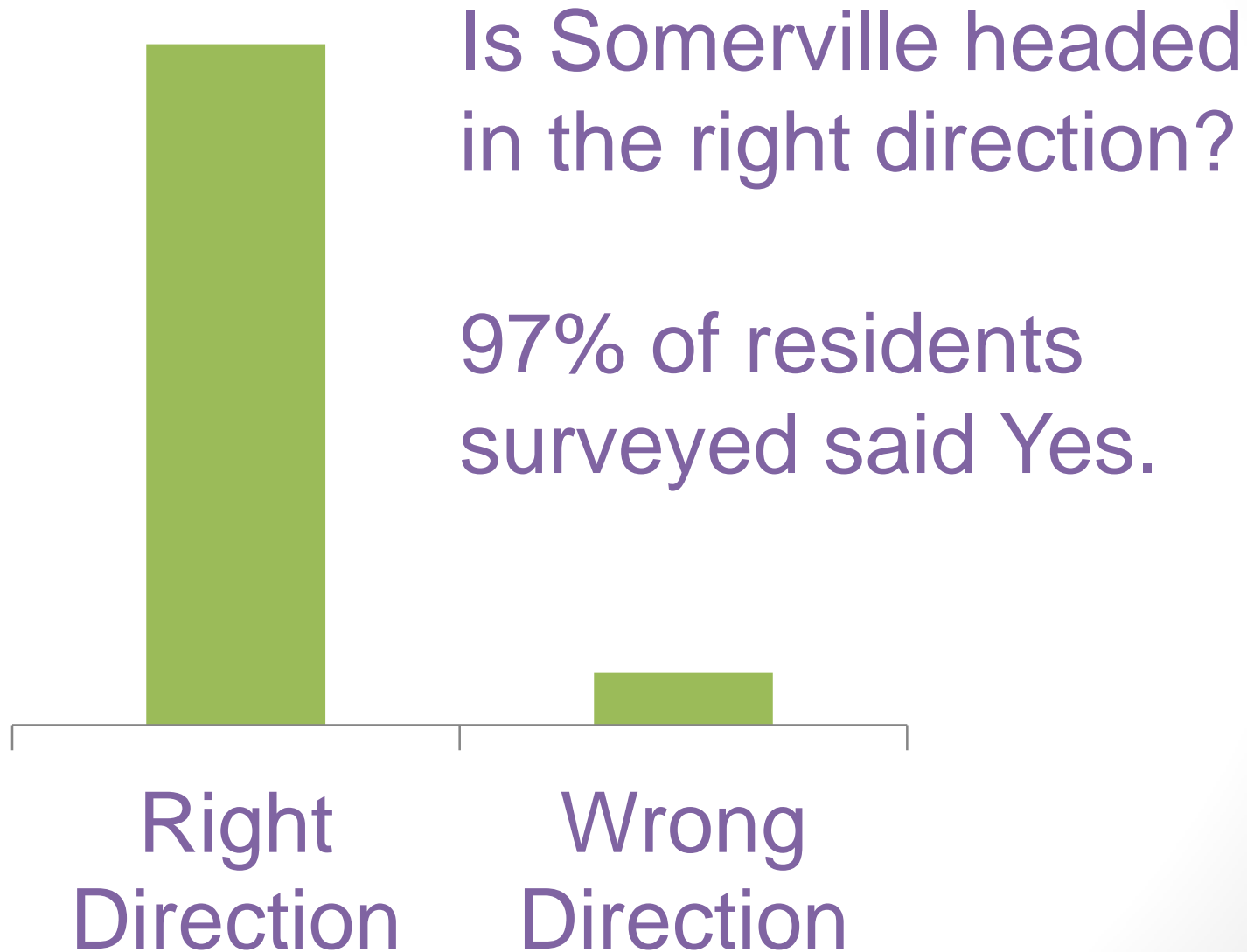
# A Budget Guided by Our Core Principles and the Community's Orienting Values



# A Budget that Addresses Community Priorities



# Listening to Residents



\*Source: Happiness Survey

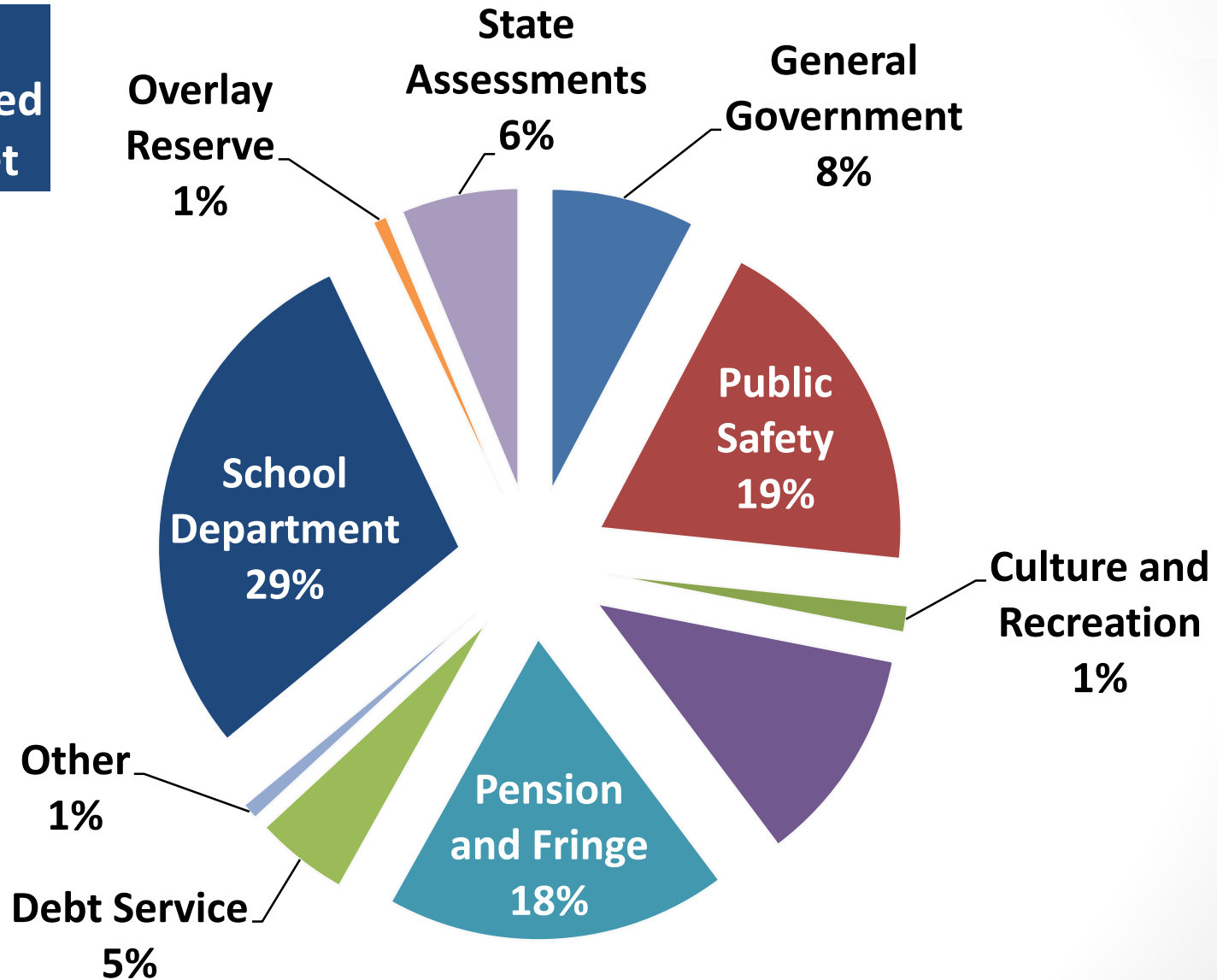


# FY2014 Appropriations

- Proposed Operating Budget =
- \$195,746,045
- A \$10,748,712 or **5.8%** increase over FY2013

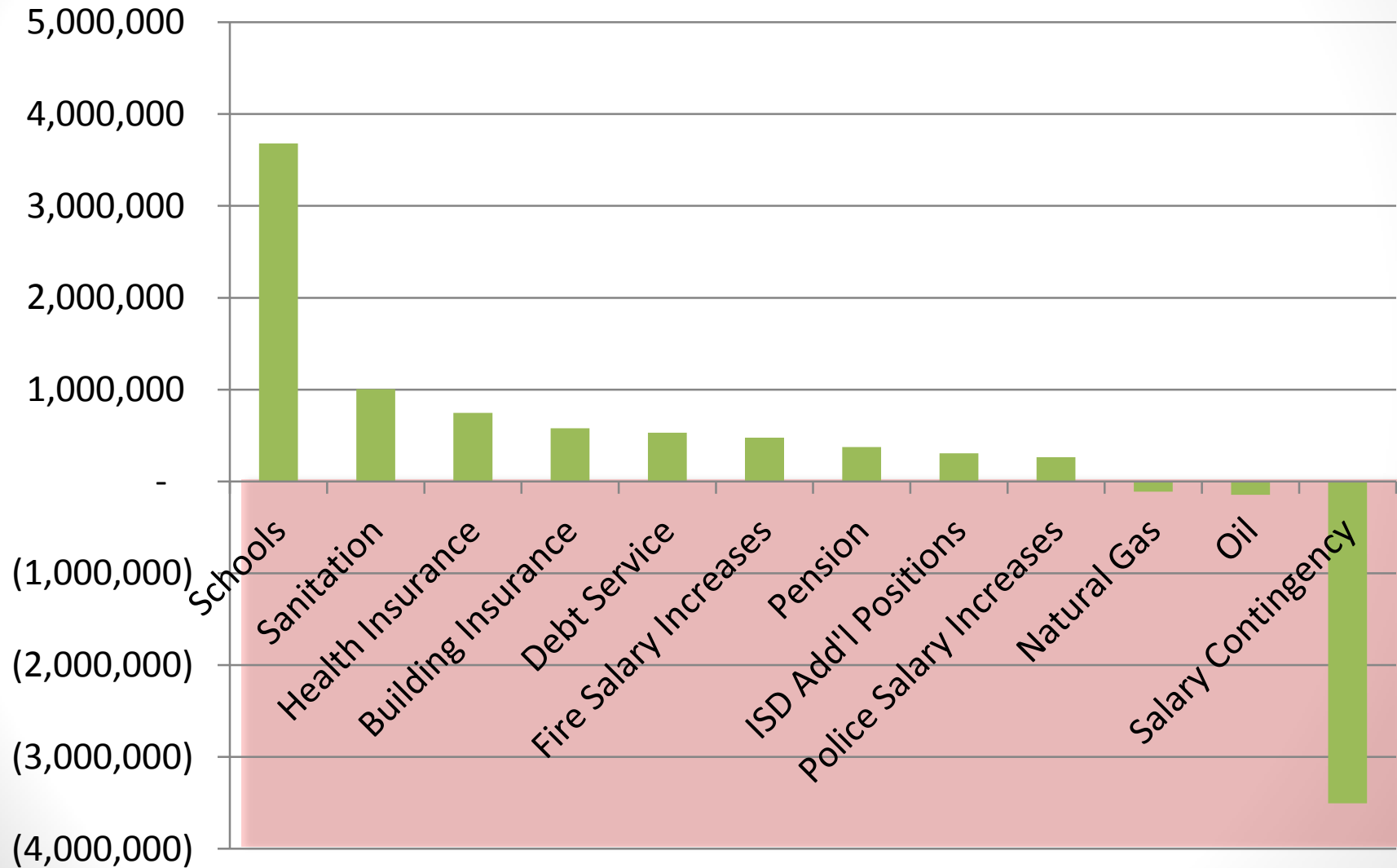
# General Fund Expenditures

**FY14  
Proposed  
Budget**

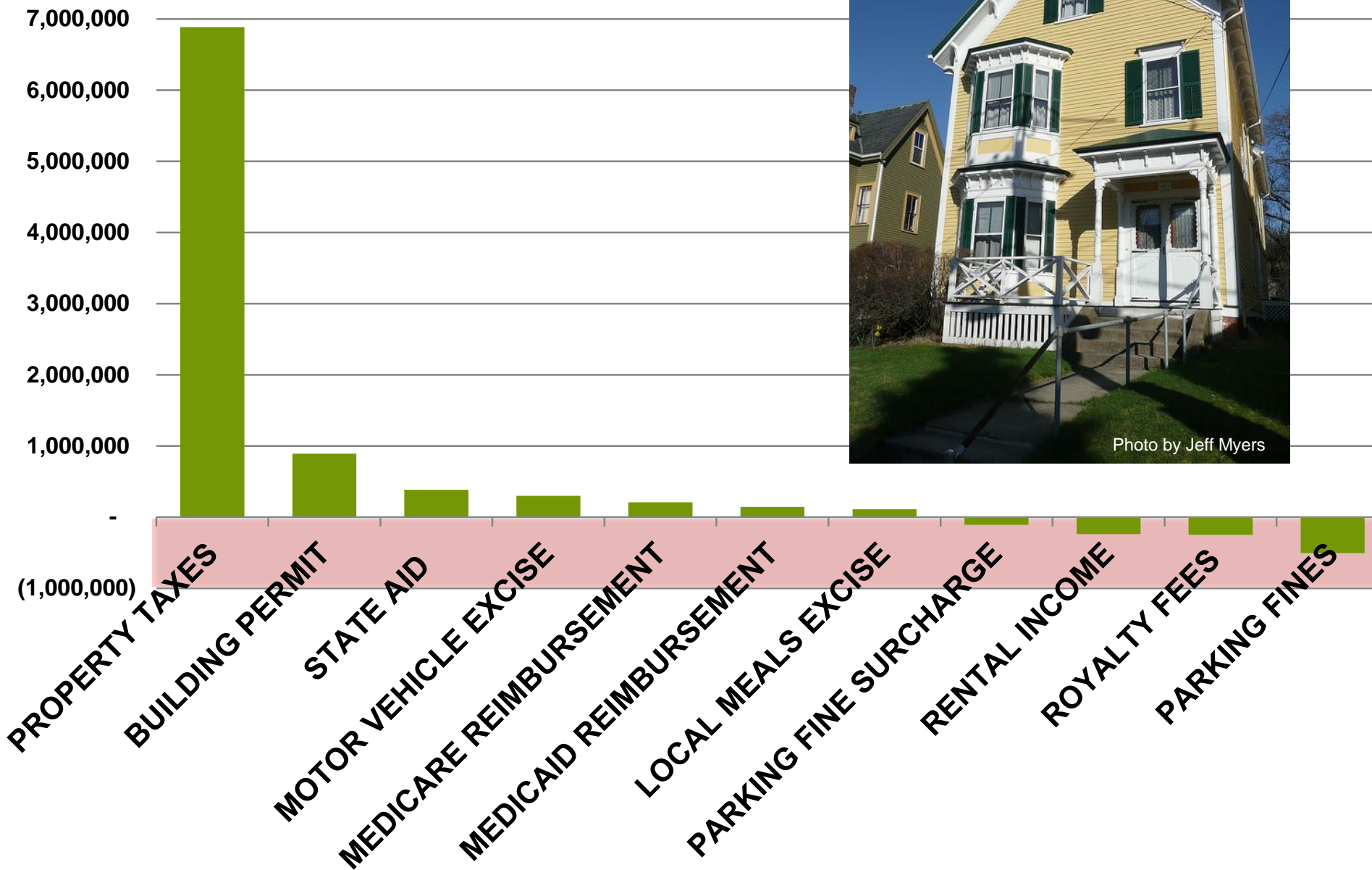




# Proposed Appropriation Changes



# Revenue Trends





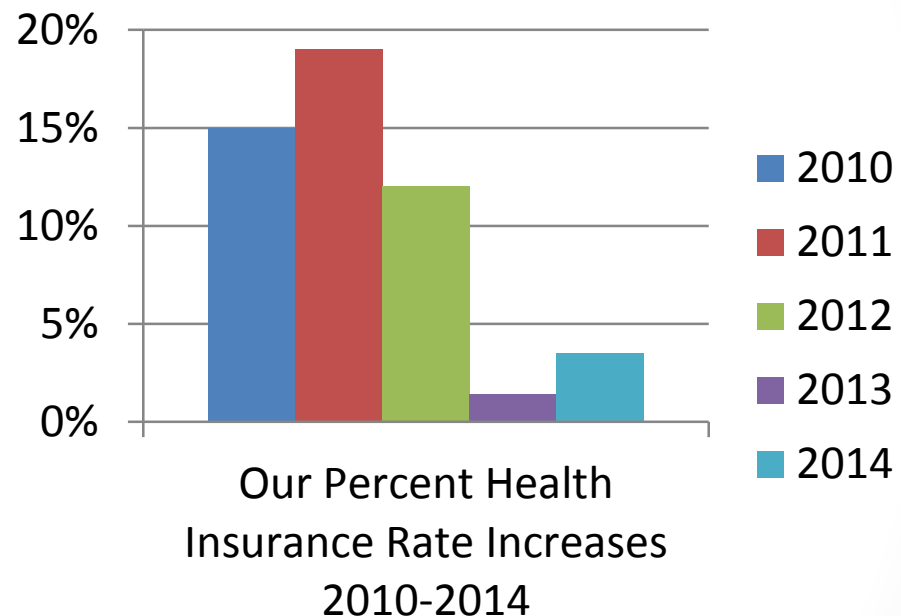
Our highest bond rating ever  
A growing commercial tax base  
Continually Improving City Services

A photograph of a park scene with people walking and a man on a bicycle. The scene is set on a brick-paved path lined with large trees. In the foreground, a man wearing a black jacket and a bicycle helmet is riding a bicycle towards the camera. Behind him, a woman in a red jacket is walking. In the background, two more people are walking away from the camera. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day in the park.

**SMART CHOICES ARE PAYING  
DIVIDENDS**

# Health Insurance is Up, But Big GIC Savings Continue

**\$19.7  
million**  
Saved in FY13 &  
FY14 combined



**3.5% Rate Increase from FY13 to FY12**



# The Long Game is Paying Off...

**\$3.1M** in new  
growth property  
tax revenue

(\$1m from Assembly  
Row)\*

+

**\$1M** in new  
building permit  
revenue

(\$900k from  
Assembly Row)



**\$24M** in  
estimated  
annual  
municipal tax  
revenue once  
complete

\*DIF taxes; \$500k net after debt service

**Assembly Row**



# So we keep playing the long game - Investing in OSPCD

- Covering the Lost CDBG Funding
- New Funding for **Somerville by Design**
- **Green Line** corridor planning
- Brickbottom/ InnerBelt planning
- Master Plans for and Marketing Plan for **Union Sq.**
- Closing the Waste Transfer Station



**Somerville By Design**

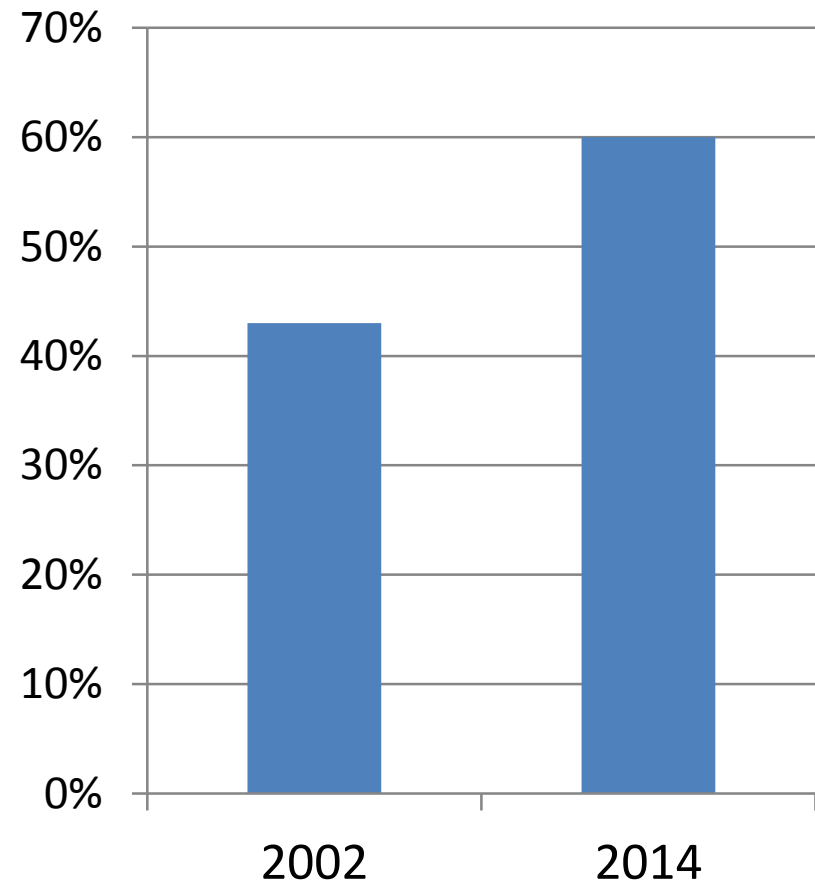
# \$23.2 M

in State Aid cut since 2000



## Tax Payers Pick up the Burden

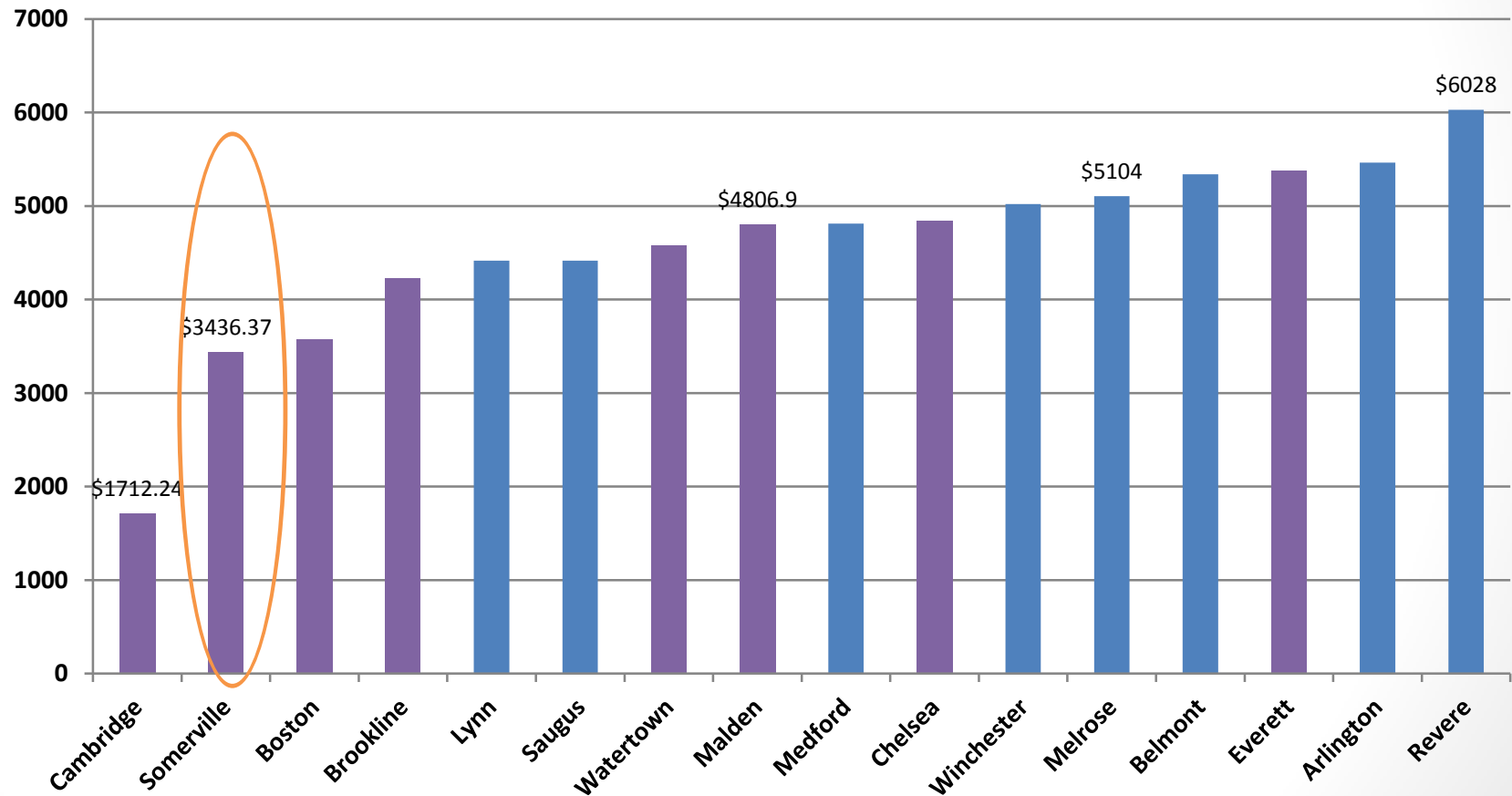
**Percent of Budget Covered by Tax Revenue**



# We're holding taxes low

## Tax with Exemption on \$400k home

■ Cities with no exemption   ■ Cities with an exemption



The Somerville fiscal year 2012 residential exemption is \$1,799.63.



# Spending Per Capita

(General Fund 10)



Somerville: \$1,828



Cambridge: \$3,352



Somerville is thriving  
because we invest, for  
the long-haul, in our  
orienting values

Make Somerville  
a Great Place to  
Live,  
Work,  
Play and  
Raise a Family





Local Meals  
Excise Tax  
Revenue is  
Up **10.2%**

Our Restaurants and  
Hotels are Drawing  
More Business

FY13 meals and room excise  
tax is up over FY12.



Photo by Chris Devers

Local Room  
Excise Tax  
revenue is  
Up **12.3%**

# Businesses are choosing Somerville

**72** net new small businesses in

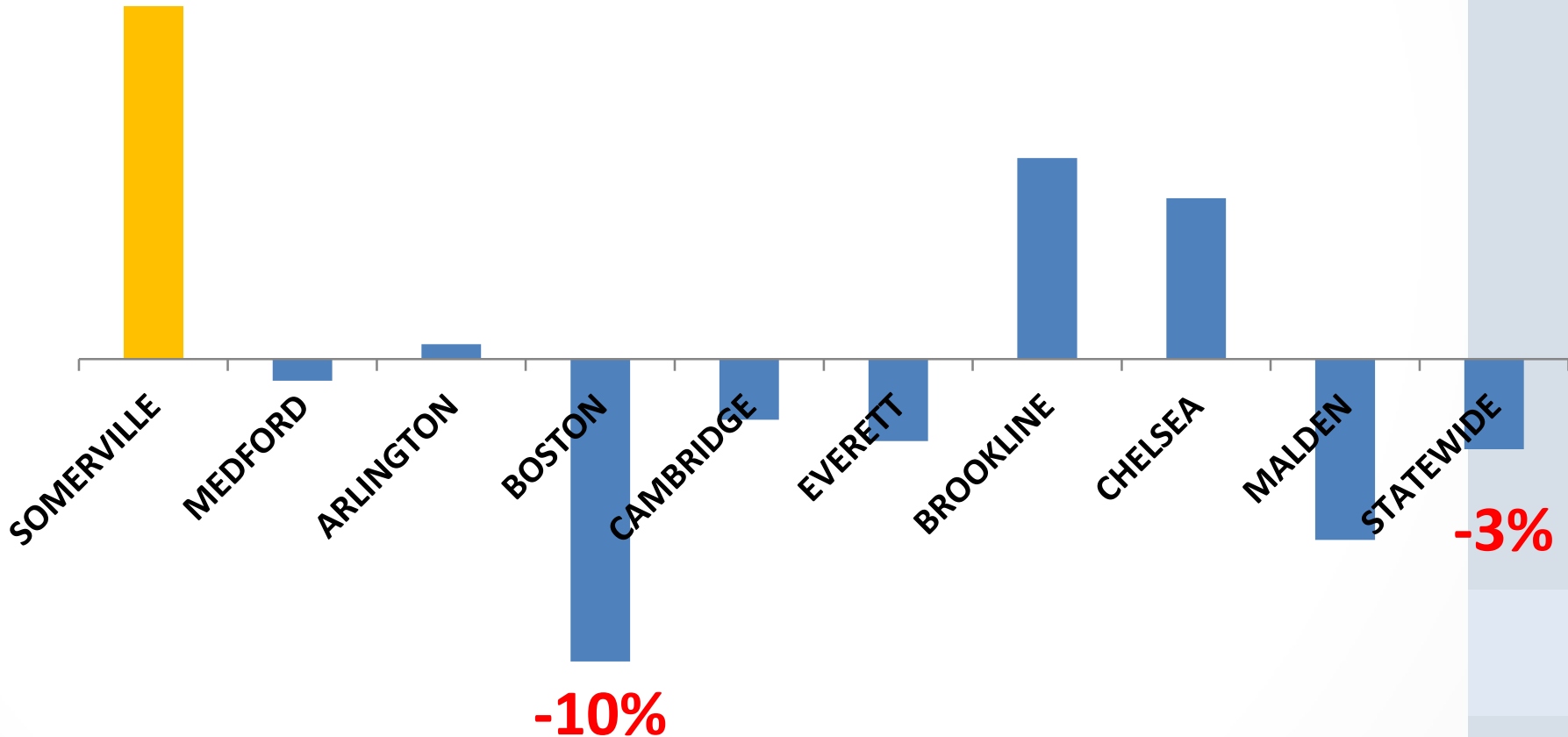
**4.1** square miles

since **2010**

As of March, 2013

# Residential Property Value is Up: % Change ('10-'11)

**Somerville:  
+12%**



# Our reputation for good management and innovation is growing

- **“Best Run City in the Commonwealth”** – Boston Globe Magazine
- **All-America City** 1972, 2009
- **100 Best Communities for Young People** – 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
- **Green Communities Award** 2011
- **E-Government Award** 2007-2011
- **U.S. HHS Let’s Move Award** – 2011

## The New York Times

How Happy Are You? A Census Wants to Know



Rick Friedman for The New York Times

Residents of Somerville, Mass., like Jamie Thatcher and Maddie Carlson, are being asked to rate their happiness on a 1-to-10 scale.

By JOHN TIERNEY  
Published: April 30, 2011

SOMERVILLE, Mass. — When they filled out the city’s census forms this spring, the people of [Somerville](#) got a new question. On a scale of 1 to 10, they were asked, “How happy do you feel right now?”



# Our Quality of Life is Gaining Notice

- **“8th Most Bikeable City in USA**
- **10<sup>th</sup> Most Walkable City** –  
walkscore.com
- **Healthiest City in Massachusetts**  
2010 – MA Health Council
- **One of 14 best places to live in MA**  
– Boston Magazine
- **“One of the 27 Coolest Suburbs”** –  
Travel & Leisure
- **“Best Place to Date a Nerd”** –  
Match.com





# Investing in Innovation and Academic Enrichment in our Schools



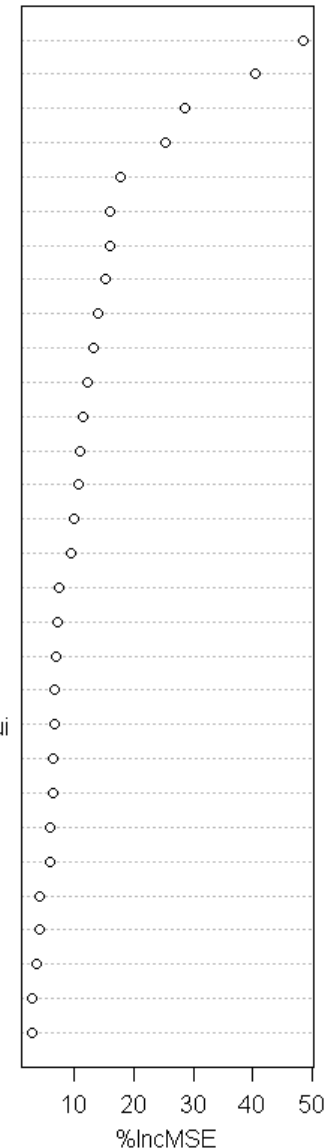
**THE NEXT GENERATION**

# Listening to Residents



\*Residents consistently rank **schools** as a top priority. Their perception of the schools is highly predictive of their satisfaction with the City.

overall would you say that the city of  
 how satisfied are you with your life in  
 public schools  
 appearance maintenance of parks  
 traffic enforcement  
 police services  
 which age group do you fall in would you  
 recreation programs  
 street cleaning  
 snow removal  
 when it comes to parking enforcement  
 services for youth  
 sidewalk maintenance  
 garbage collection  
 how long have you lived in somerville  
 yard waste pickup  
 are you of hispanic latin or spanish  
 are you presently  
 ward  
 in which of the following categories  
 code enforcement weeds abandoned buildi  
 what is your marital status  
 fire services  
 which ward of somerville do you live in  
 weight new 6142011  
 gender  
 do you own or rent your home  
 public library services  
 street maintenance potholes paving  
 how many children under the age of 18 li



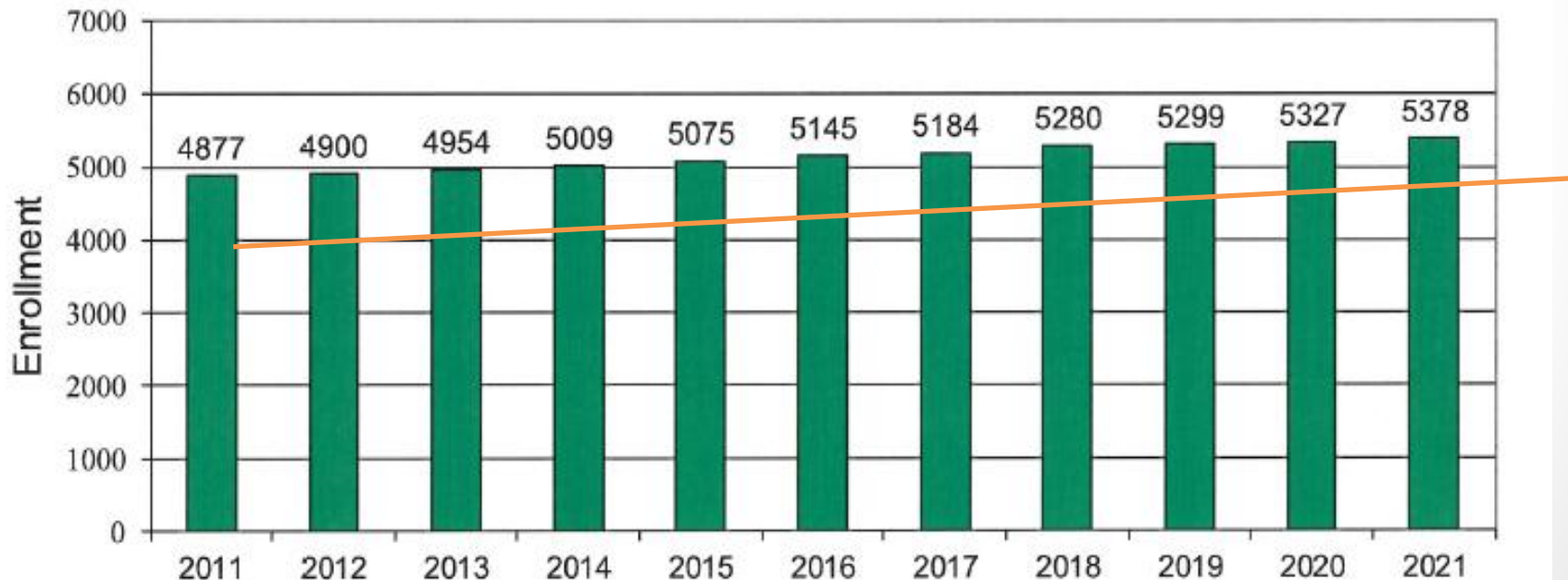


# Enrollment Projected to Rise

**NESDEC**

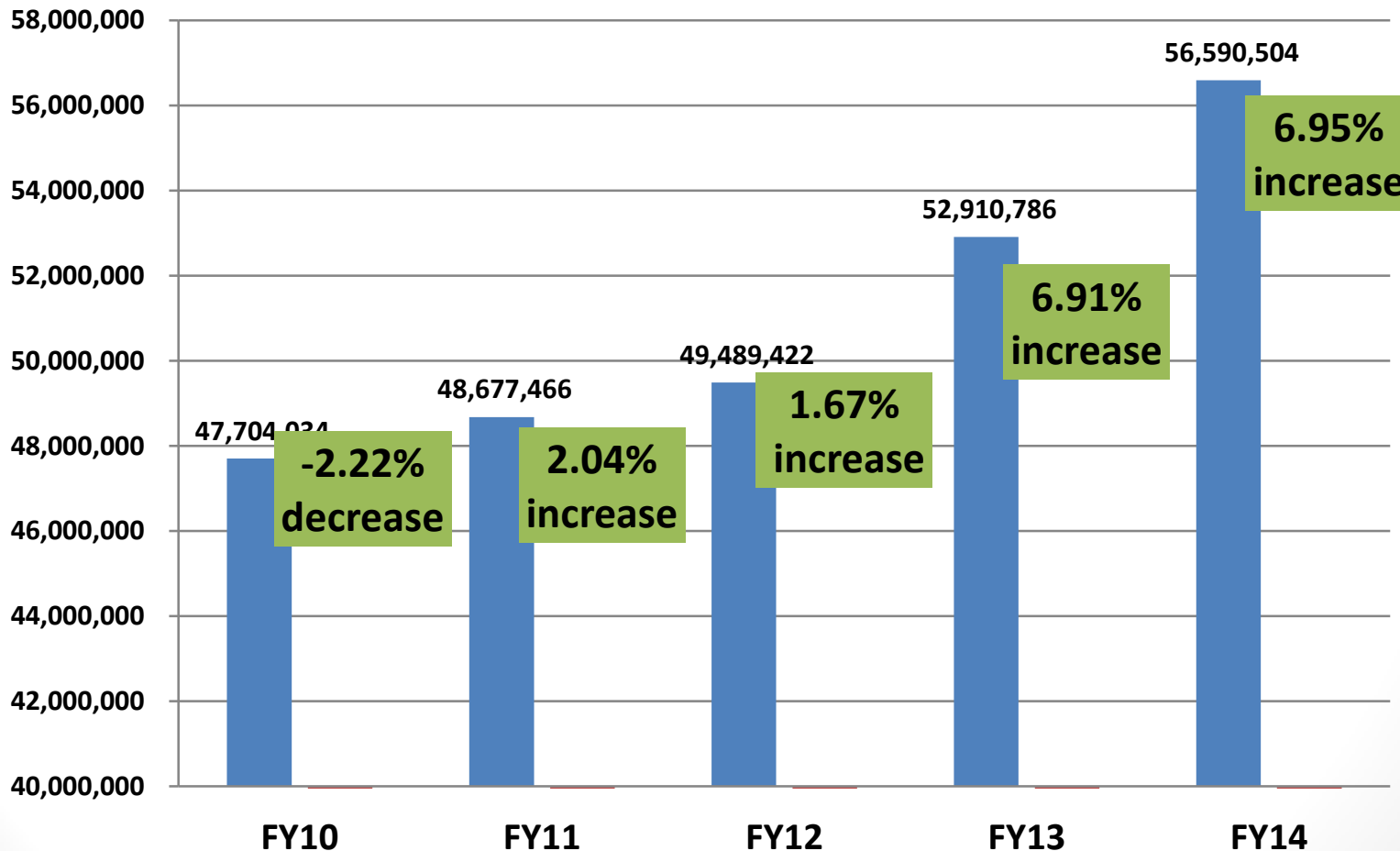
## Somerville, MA Projected Enrollment

PK-12 TO 2020 Based On Data Through School Year 2011-12



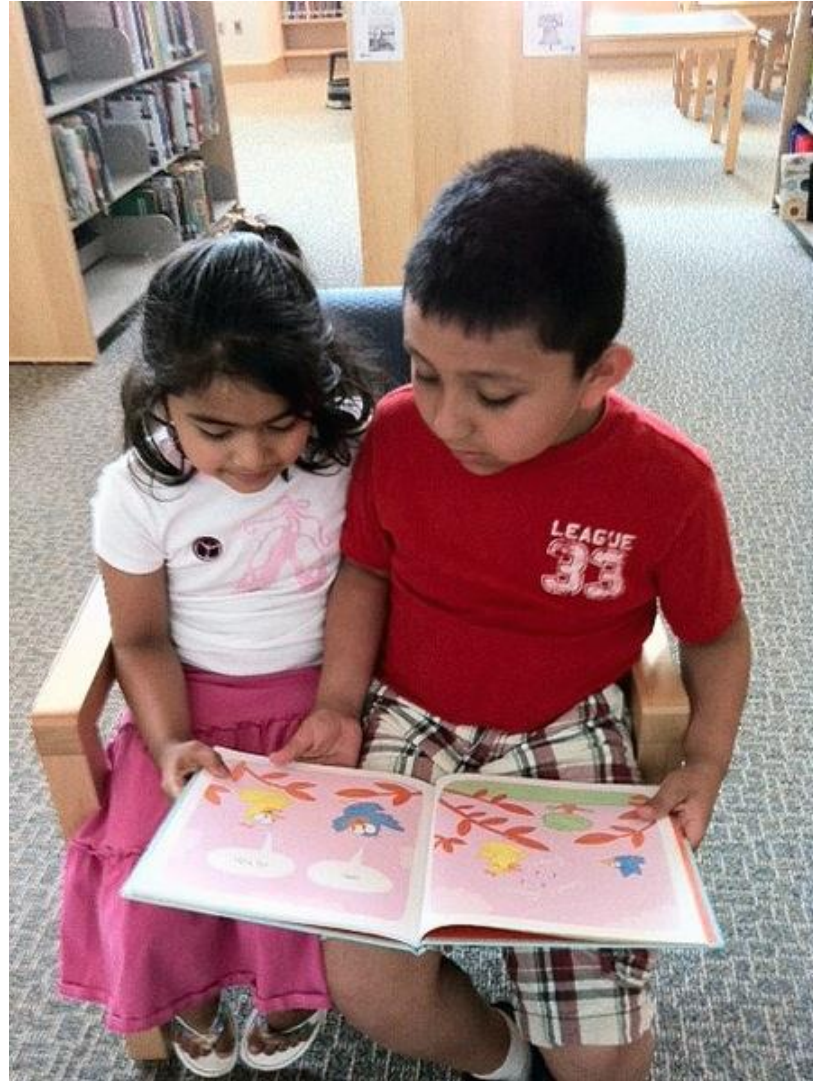
# A Historic Investment in Our Schools: an 18% increase since FY10

## School Department Budget Increases FY10-FY14



# Investing in Early Education and more

- Phasing-in universal preschool (expansion of SMILE)
- Additional funding for expanding K-2 population (increase of 8 teachers and 7 paraprofessionals)
- Additional funding for Special Ed. Services





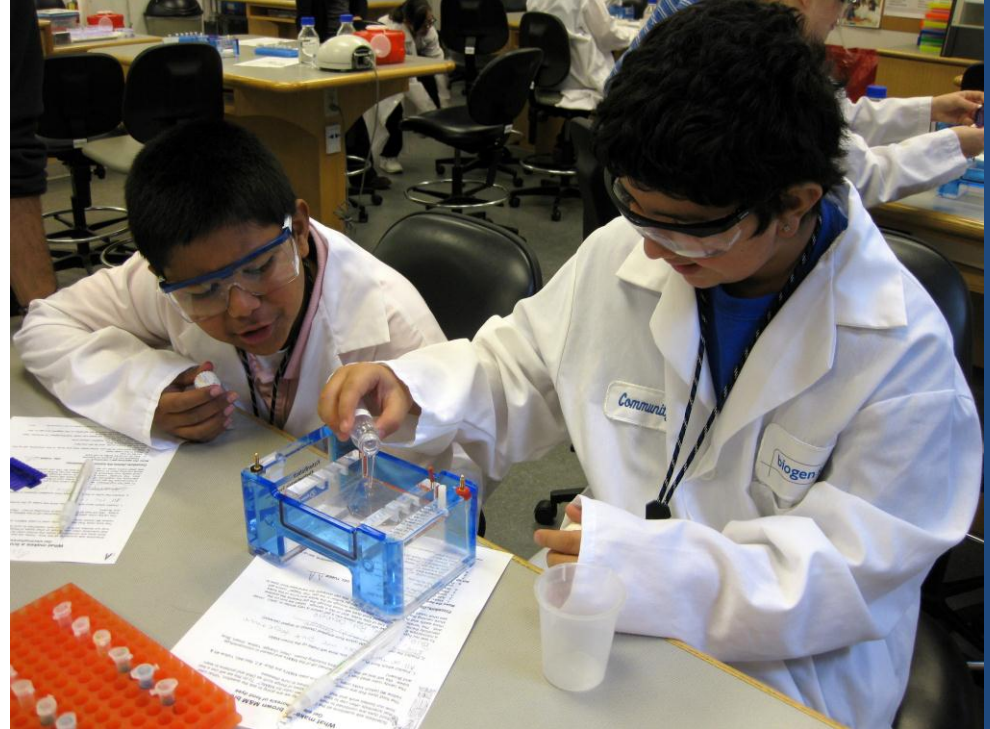
# Increasing Enrichment Programs as others scale back

- Investment in music classes, adding new string and percussion teacher
- Increasing funding for outreach coordinators to engage youth in enrichment and intramural programs



# Preparing our youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy

- Adding hands-on experiences with cutting-edge science and technology
  - Emphasis on science with funding for middle and high school students for hands-on lab learning
- Investment in foreign language education
  - Expanding Spanish to 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Adding a two-way bilingual coordinator for UNIDOS



# Keeping our youth healthy and active: Investing in Recreation





# Increasing Part-Time Staff Funding for Our Expanding Rec Programs

New Youth Programs in FY13:

- **“Get Up & Go”** Program at the Healy, ESCS, and WHCS
- **Enrichment Program** at the Argenziano
- Enhanced **Girls Softball** programming
- **Parkour, Futsal, and more**
- **Intramural Volleyball & Tennis**
- **Batting Cages** for High School Baseball & Softball Teams

New in FY14:

- **New Youth Football Program**



# 75%

Increase in  
Recreational  
Programming  
since 2009

# Providing our youth with summer jobs

- Proposed at \$175,000
- \$55,000 increase over last year
- Proposed increase would:
  - Provide more jobs for Somerville youth
  - Provide more City departments with extra help over the summer
  - Provide enough staff for expanded Recreation programming







# Investing in Inspectional Services for Our Community

**OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND  
QUALITY OF LIFE**



# A Push to Improve Customer Service in ISD

- **New Superintendent** of Inspectional Services with a background in streamlining the permitting process for contractors and residents
- **Implementing Permit Management Software** for online submittals and electronic review
- **Hiring 2 additional Clerks** to streamline administrative tasks and improve customer service at the counter and over the phone



# Enhancing Quality of Life

- Hiring additional Health Inspector to grow ISD's capacity in addressing trash, overgrowth, rodents, and dumpsters in the City





# Preventive Maintenance for our Sidewalks, Roads, Buildings and Fleet

A photograph of a group of people walking and cycling on a tree-lined sidewalk. In the foreground, a man wearing a black jacket and a bicycle helmet is riding a bike towards the camera. To his right, a woman in a red jacket is walking. Further back, a man in an orange jacket and a woman in a light-colored jacket are walking away from the camera. The sidewalk is paved with red bricks and is lined with large, mature trees. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the ground. A blue banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

**MAINTAINING OUR COMMUNITY  
PROPERTY**



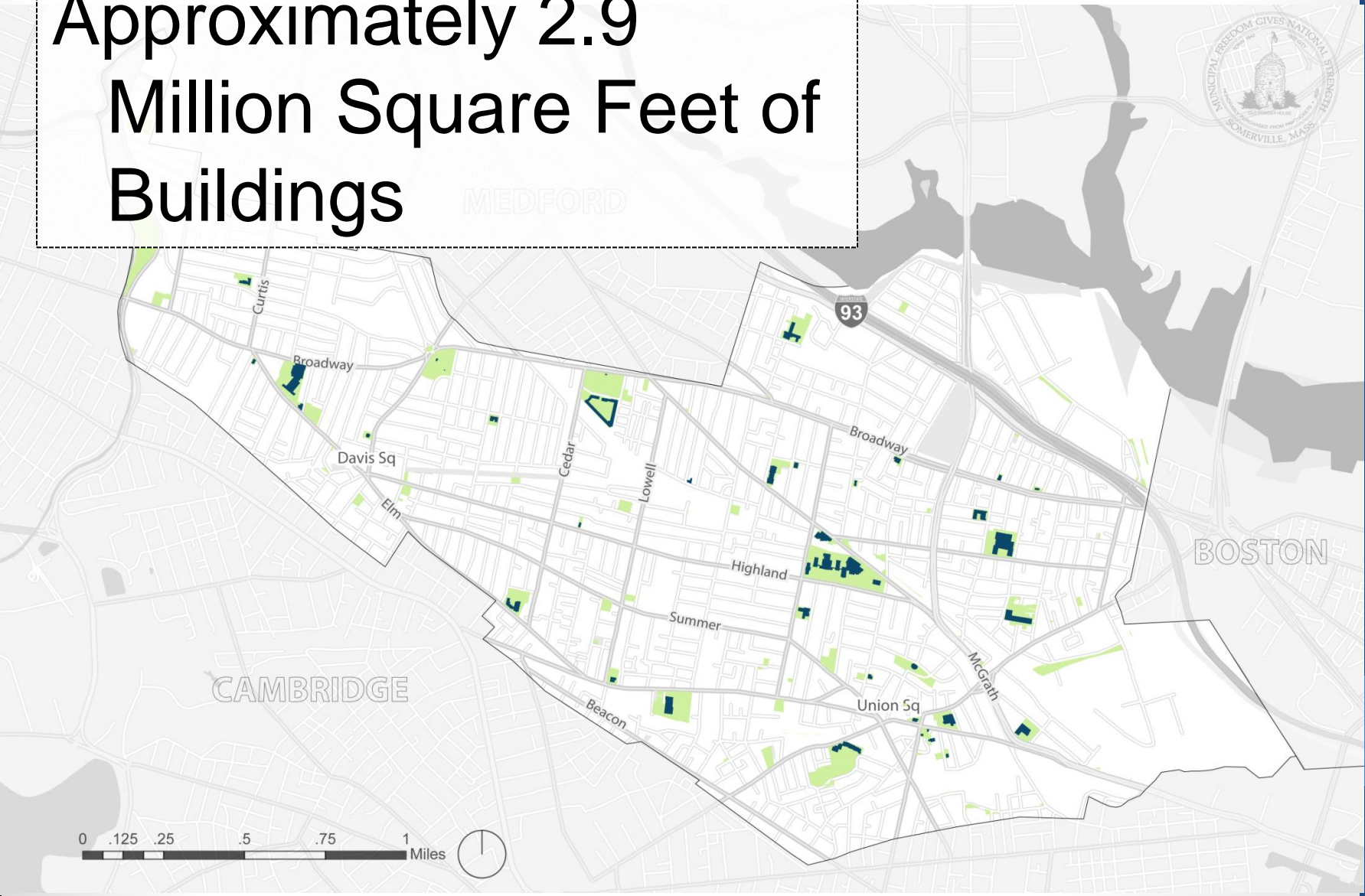
# Protecting your investments

- **DPW Fleet Maintenance Manager**
  - Ensure our vehicles are maintained to the highest standards early in their life cycle to prevent larger repair costs later
- **Buildings Preventive Maintenance Manager**
  - Shield taxpayers from incurring steep costs for building repairs by managing preventive maintenance
- **GIS Specialist**
  - Among other departmental tasks, support our pavement and sidewalk preventive maintenance efforts with high-level mapping

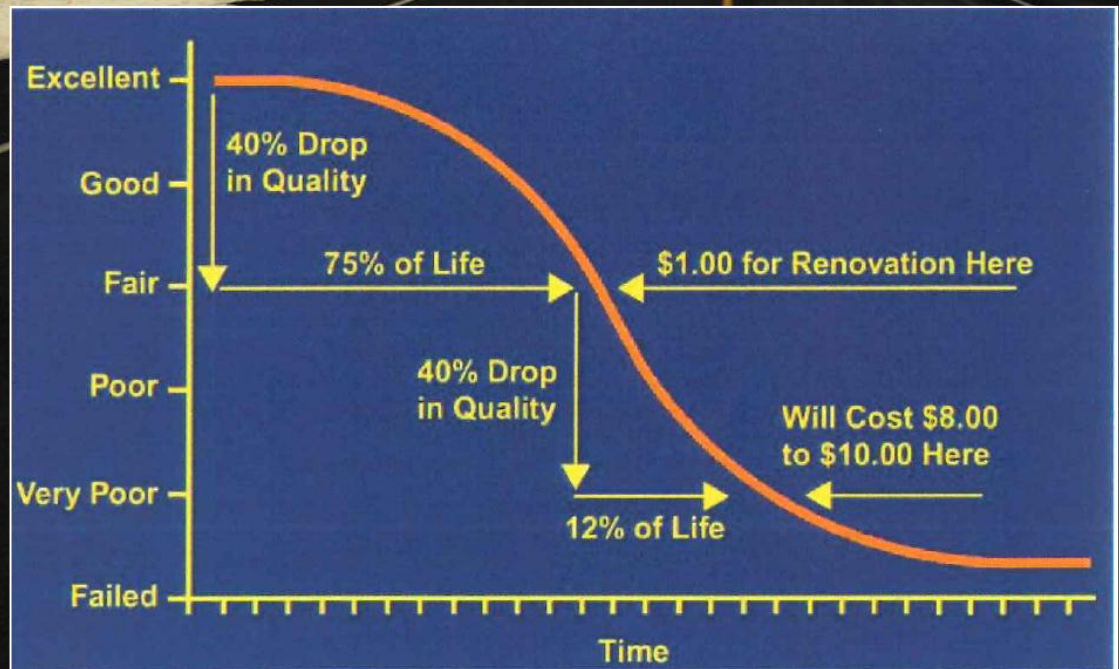
Spending  
Now to Save  
Later

# Our Buildings and Parcels

Approximately 2.9  
Million Square Feet of  
Buildings



“Studies show that for every \$1 spent on preventive maintenance and pavement preservation, the municipality saved \$6-\$8 on costly reconstructions and rehabilitations later.” - UNH Technical Note





# Serving Every Resident



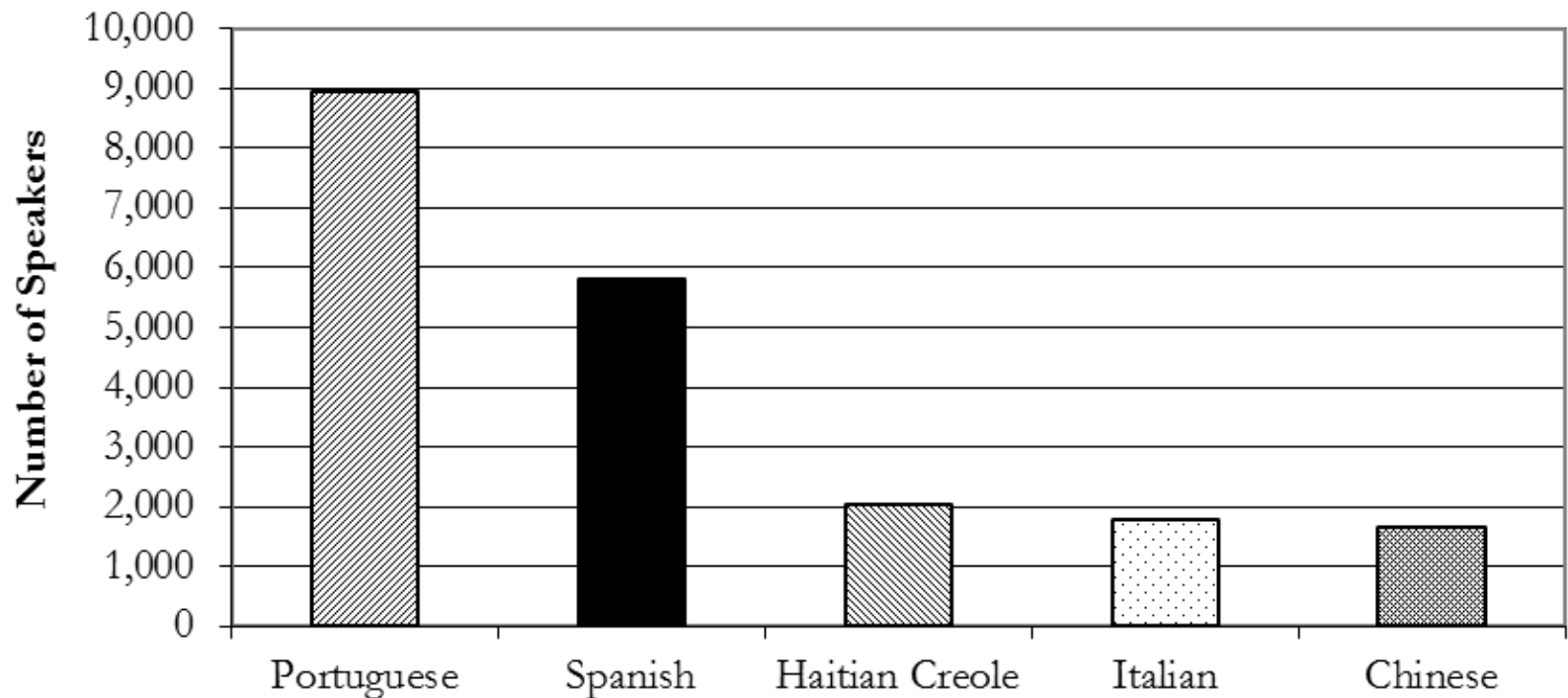
## A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

# We have always welcomed immigrants

	Somerville	Massachusetts
Foreign born persons, percent, 2007-2011	<b>26.0%</b>	14.7%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent age 5+, 2007-2011	<b>32.3%</b>	21.4%

# Our largest language groups

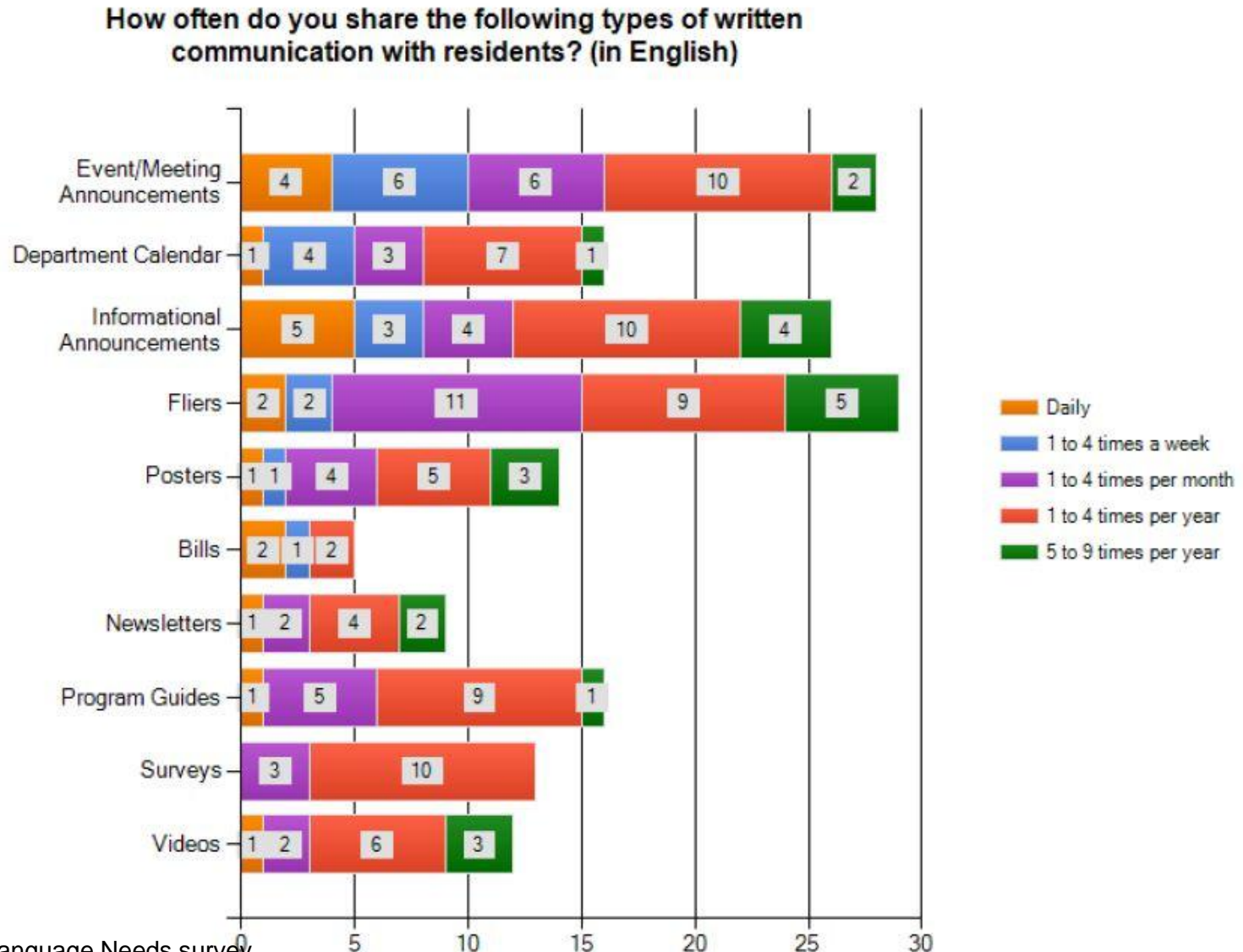
Figure V-10b: Language Spoken at Home in Somerville, 2000



Source: US Census

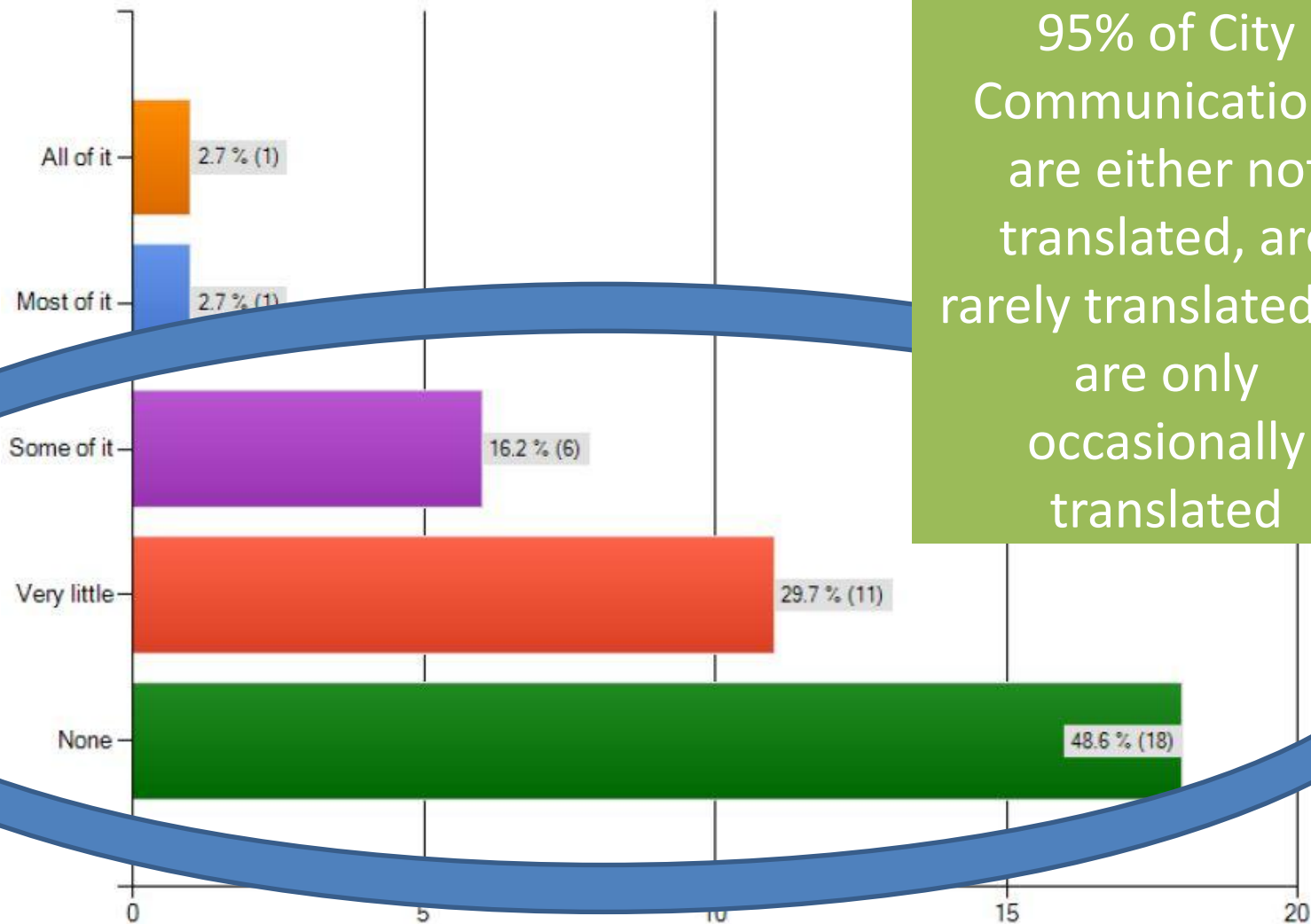


# Types of Departmental Communications



# Dept. Communications in Other Languages

How much of this communication is also carried out in other languages?



95% of City Communications are either not translated, are rarely translated, or are only occasionally translated

# Language Liaisons

- Pilot since March (2 liaisons)
- Hiring 3 part-time liaisons
- Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole



*Adriana Fernandes & Irma Flores*

- Multi-Lingual Community Alerts
- Engage immigrant communities in all public processes, discussions, and events
- Ensure access to City programming and services
- Translate/create City information and outreach in other languages: web, print, social media
- Celebrate our diversity through cultural programming



# Supporting Our Veterans

- Requesting a 29% increase in FY14
- Veterans' Services has been increasing outreach:
  - Facebook page with local, state, and federal veterans' information
  - Programs at the Council on Aging with veterans' group
  - Planning events to attract younger veterans



75% of the benefit money paid to veterans through Veterans' Services is reimbursed by the federal government.

# Community Preservation Act



Open Space

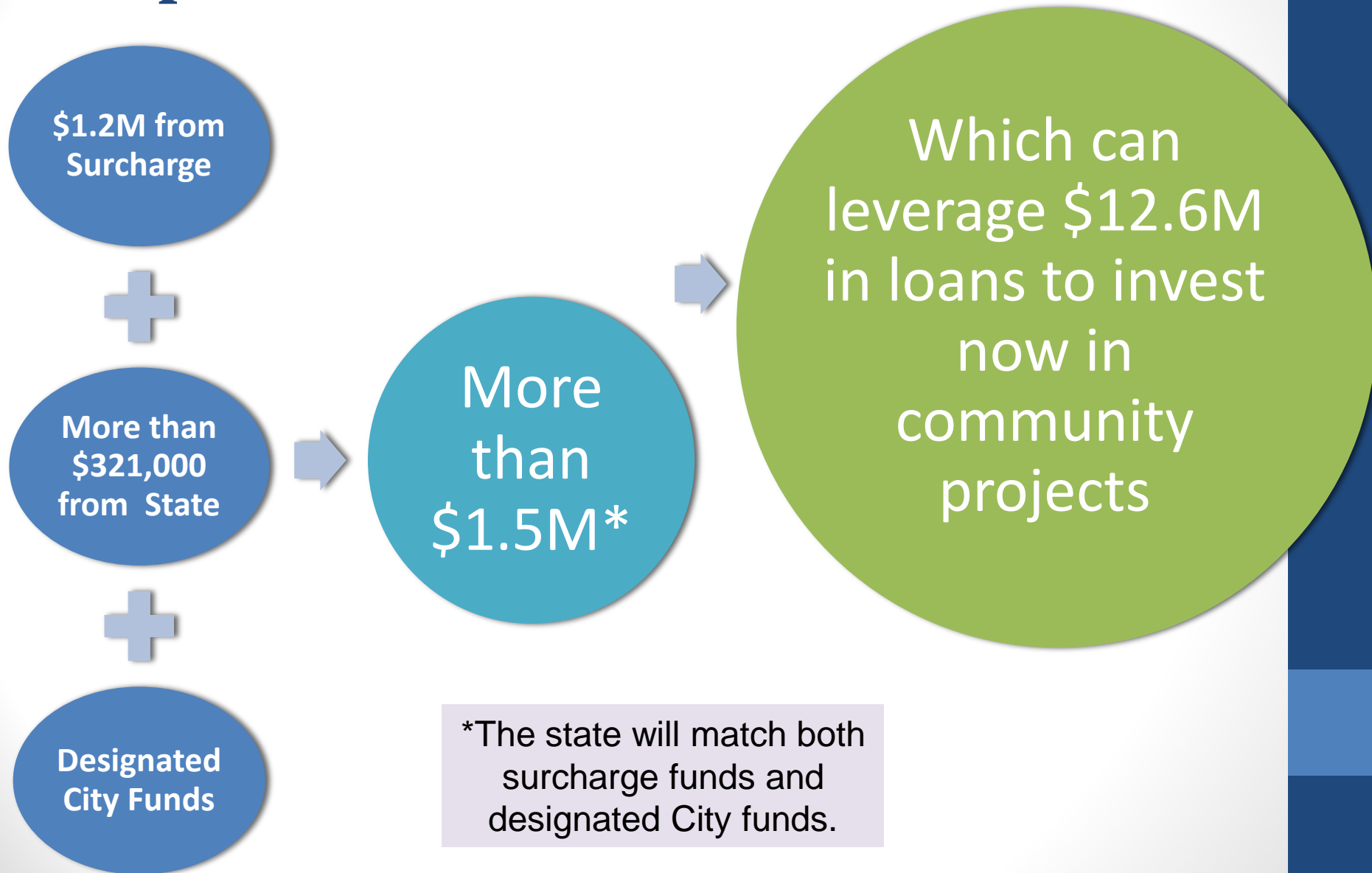


Affordable Housing



Historic Preservation


# Expected Benefits FY14







More  
trees!



Build a  
new  
park!



Preserve  
historic City  
buildings!




Restore  
historic  
sites!

**Community Preservation Act  
Manager:  
Assist the CPA Committee by  
using data and analysis to  
ensure the most efficient use  
of CPA money**




Affordable  
live/work  
space!



More  
affordable  
housing!



More sports  
fields!



Help preserve  
historic  
homes!

# Playing the Long Game





Make Somerville  
a Great Place to  
Live,  
Work,  
Play and  
Raise a Family

